

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when one company controls the editorial policy for many stations in many geographical areas, the public interest is compromised. Sadly, we are a TV-obsessed nation, so in a sense, it's our own fault when a large part of the population is unable to intelligently use the the button that says, "OFF." But equally unfortunate, are corporate media giants who use the airwaves to blatantly promote their personal political views packaged in the guise of "news."

Isn't that why our tax dollars fund "watchdog" regulatory agencies such as the FCC?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.